Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 08013 010826Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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P R 010652Z NOV 77 FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3728 INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

SECRETAMMAN 8013

EXDIS

PASS AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PGOV, JO, IS, US

SUBJECT: MAQARIN AND POTASH PROJECTS

REF: A) TEL AVIV 8468, B) AMMAN 7626

1. I HAD A FEW MOMENTS OCTOBER 31 TO TALK
TO CROWN PRINCE HASSAN ABOUT CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS
ONN MAQARIN DAM AND PASS TO HIM A COPY OF THE
ISRAELI PAPER AND GIVE HIM A SYNOPSIS OF THE
POINTS WE HAD ALREADY MADE TO JVA HEAD OMAR
ABDULLAH (REF B).

2. WHILE TIME WAS NECESSARILY LIMITED, HASSAN WAS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING A FURTHER JORDANIAN POSITION AND RECOGNIZED ALSO THE NEED TO MEET TIME DEADLINES. HE FELT THAT WEST BANK WOULD BE BETTER ADDRESSED IN A BROADER OVERVIEW OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE REGION WHICH COULD QUITE REASONABLY TAKE PLACE AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE POINTED OUT AGAIN THAT JORDAN COULD SECRET

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NOT PROVIDE WATER FOR A WEST BANK WITHOUT KNOWING ITS FUTURE. IT WOULD ALSO HAVE A HARD TIME AGREEING TO PROVIDE WATER TO ANY AREA WHICH REMAINED (OUTSIDE THE 1967 LINES) UNDER CONTINUING ISRAELI OCCUPATION IN ANY EVENT.

3. IN VIEW OF THE LIMITED TIME TO CONSIDER

THE SUBJECT, HASSAN AND I AGREED TO MEET AGAIN TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE IN MORE DETAIL.

4. I ALSO PASSED ON TO HASSAN THE NEED FOR JORDAN TO BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE REQUIRED IN TERMS OF FUTURE CONTACTS--THROUGH GOOD OFFICES OF THE U.S. OR OTHERWISE--WITH THE ISRAELIS OVER JORDAN'S PLANS FOR POTASH. I NOTED THAT A CONTRACT WOULD SOON BE SIGNED FOR DESIGN. AT THAT POINT, CONTRACTOR WOULD PROBABLY BE IN NEED OF DATA ON EFFLUENT FLOW FROM ISRAELI DEAD SEA WORKS AND SURFACE RUNOFF FROM THE WEST SIDE OF THE DEAD SEA WATER SHED SOUTH OF THE POTASH FACILITY IN ORDER TO CALCULATE BEST MEANS OF DIVERTING SUCH FLOWS INTO DEAD SEA PROPER. HASSAN RAISED POSSIBLE FUTURE EFFECTS OF BAR LEV PLAN AND NOTED THEY TOO HAD TO BE CONSIDERED AS THINGS DEVELOPED. HE THOUGHT GENEVA MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE A USEFUL FORUM IN WHICH TO CONSIDER THAT SUBJECT. PICKERING

SECRET

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Subject: MAQARIN AND POTASH PROJECTS

TAGS: EAID, PGOV, EMIN, JO, IS, US, (PICKERING, THOMAS R), (HASSAN, CROWN PRINCE)

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